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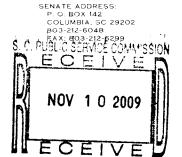
DARRELL JACKSON SENATOR, RICHLAND COUNTY SENATORIAL DISTRICT NO. 21

HOME ADDRESS: 924 HAMPTON STREET COLUMBIA, SC 29201 803-771-0325



COMMITTEES:

BANKING AND INSURANCE
EDUCATION
FINANCE
GENERAL
MEDICAL AFFAIRS
LEGISLATIVE JOINT COMMITTEE ON CHILDREN



November 8, 2009

Charles Terreni
Chef Clerk and Administrator
Public Service Commission of SC
101 Executive Center Dr., Ste. 100
Columbia, SC 29210

Dear Mr. Terreni:

I was disappointed to hear that the SC PSC recently denied TracFone Wireless's request to provide free cell phones and service to poor citizens in SC for the federal Lifeline program. Many thousands of eligible people in our state need MORE access wireless access and phones, and TracFone was poised to bring this federal program to them. This is a service that costs us nothing, and provides as critical communication amenity to those afflicted by poverty, many of them handicapped, infirm, aged and/or without the means to get cell service.

90% of this state's low income households do not currently receive Lifeline benefits. If they could be brought into service, the millions of federal dollars tapped would be a tremendous financial benefit for SC. I need not tell you how tough the times are right now.

I hope that the PSC will see fit to accommodate this need and expand access to wireless phones and service for low income South Carolinians. TracFone is a well-known national provider who can commit significant resources to providing this service for needy households in our state. The company has launched the services successfully all over the country. I would like to see the PSC to reconsider how they can broker a solution here that increases critical access for our citizens while capturing the federal dollars the Lifeline program offers.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Darrell Jackson

Senator - Richland County

cc: C. Dukes Scott, Exec. Director, SC Office of Regulatory Staff & members of Public Utilities Review Committee